

In the end it will prove to be necessary to convene an International Conference similar to the Geneva Conference of 1962 to tackle various abuses and problems confronting Laos today—in particular the non-respect of the neutrality, sovereignty and independence of our country by its immediate neighbours.

In view of the fact that a great number of political groupings set up by Lao refugees abroad are heavily infiltrated by communist elements and opportunist trouble-makers it will be difficult—if not impossible altogether for them alone to create a single anti-communist entity without American prodding. The success of the US pro-democracy crusade in Laos will undoubtedly trigger throughout the Asia region a genuine tidal wave carrying a powerful signal as well as an unmistakable warning to dictators and tyrants in other lands hence that the international community will no longer tolerate undemocratic practices and uncivilized and inhumane behavior by members of the United Nations.

The Lao people both inside the country and overseas hope and pray with us that the American people will understand and support their government's resolute action humanely intended to assist the Kingdom of Laos in regaining peace, independence and liberty essential ingredients for economic advancement and well-being in the years to come.

PARIS 1 SEPTEMBER 2000

THE HOME AMENDMENT, H.J. RES.
39

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to bring to your attention an amendment which I introduced the first session of the 106th Congress. H.J. Res. 39, The Home Amendment "would provide for a Constitutional amendment requiring that all citizens of the United States shall have a right to a home, which shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State."

Despite the economic growth that has brought unprecedented prosperity to the nation, we are still faced with shortages of housing and affordable rents, particularly in larger cities such as New York. Indeed, many people have not been included in the economic windfall of the 1990's.

I first introduced this amendment during the 104th Congress, and again in the 105th at the request of Reverend Dr. M. Moran Weston, who was actually the inspiration behind the development of this legislation.

Weston, who for many years served as pastor of St. Philip's Church in my 15th Congressional District of New York, is the Founder and long time President of the National Association for Affordable Housing. One of our community's greatest religious leaders, his genuine concern for people who lacked the most basic need, a decent place to live, inspired him to do more.

This renowned Harlem pastor responded as an example to others, by playing a leading role in renovating a block on Harlem's 135th Street. As a member of the original board of directors of Carver Federal Savings & Loan in my congressional district, he was the sponsor

of a federal government guaranteed renovation project, a 198-unit development, which he viewed as an early step in the creation of a "New Harlem." It was his inspiration and way of desire for a better life for all people, that led to my introduction of this amendment.

Though Reverend Weston no longer resides in my congressional district, his many contributions to our community over the years, have not gone unnoticed or have been forgotten by this Congressman or the people of New York.

Only last year that Dr. Weston was named with a Distinguished Lectureship in Urban and Public Policy established in his name by Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. The first two speakers in the lecture series were Chairman of Fannie Mae Franklin Raines and Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Andrew Cuomo.

It is my hope that on behalf of Reverend Dr. M. Moran Weston, and millions of people who would benefit from H.J. Res. 39, that we support this amendment, and look forward to its enactment.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST FOUR
DON LESLIE MICHAEL OF LEX-
INGTON, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Alabama's true heroes, Specialist Four Don Leslie Michael. Michael's life was one of service to his country and brave sacrifice. I honor him today on the occasion of his induction into the Alabama Military Hall of Honor.

Michael's family recently attended the induction ceremony at the Hall of Honor located in Marion, Alabama. Michael, 1 of 13 members asked to join this elite Hall, was born in Florence and soon moved to Lexington where he grew up with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy O. Michael, now deceased. The Alabama Military Hall of Honor is described as "a permanent and visible tribute to Alabamians who have distinguished themselves in the Armed Services of their country. It serves as a constant testimony to present and future generations that patriotism and heroism are not forgotten, but ever serve as challenges for those who are yet to come."

Michael's distinction with the Alabama Military Hall of Honor brings additional honor to his memory. In May of 1969, President Nixon handed the Congressional Medal of Honor awarded to Michael to his family at a White House ceremony. While in the Army 173rd Airborne Brigade, Michael sacrificed his life in service of this nation. During a conflict in Vietnam on April 8, 1967, Michael put himself on the line to throw six grenades. He was successful in destroying the enemy positions, yet he was mortally wounded in the effort. Michael's award citation reads "His inspiring display of determination and courage saved the lives of many of his comrades and successfully eliminated a destructive enemy force.

Specialist four Michael's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit upon himself and the U.S. Army."

Michael, the only Congressional Medal of Honor winner in northwest Alabama, has gone unrecognized long enough. I am pleased that his induction into the Alabama Military Hall of Honor will ensure that the example of his life and his unceasing dedication to the United States and its democracy can be an inspiration for our state for years to come. On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of North Alabama. I want to express my outstanding respect and admiration for Specialist Four Michael. I know that his family is deeply proud of his legacy and I share my joy with them that his life and memory are being properly recognized.

IN HONOR OF DR. ORLANDO
EDREIRA, FOR DEDICATING HIS
LIFE TO LANGUAGE AND TEACH-
ING

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Orlando Edreira for his life-long commitment to education.

Dr. Orlando Edreira has been a symbol of learning since his days as a student in Cuba during the 1950s and 1960s. It was then that he decided to make the study of language and the education of others his life's work. His decision was based on a true understanding of the value of language and the freedom it provides.

Dr. Edreira began his career as an educator in 1966, when he became an instructor in the Department of Spanish at Columbia University. In 1968, he joined the faculty of Kean College of New Jersey as an assistant professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, where he has been an integral part of the faculty ever since, and where he became as associate professor in 1972 and a full professor in 1977.

As a member of the faculty at Kean College, Dr. Edreira served as the Coordinator of the Bilingual Education Program from 1971-1972, and the Chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages from 1974 to 1986. He has served as the Director of the Spanish Speaking program since 1972.

In addition, Dr. Edreira has made important contributions to program development, faculty development, and student development at Kean College. He is a member of the Committee on Academic Concerns of Hispanic Students; a member of the Language Laboratory Committee; and a member of the Committee on Academic Support for Hispanics. He also initiated and coordinated faculty training programs for faculty of the Spanish Speaking Program, and developed and directed In-Service Training Programs for Bilingual Teachers in the State of New Jersey.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Dr. Orlando Edreira for his lifetime commitment to education and for the support and guidance he has provided Hispanic students.